



APPROVAL: _____

COMMENT: _____

INFORMATION: _____

INVITATION: _____

DUE DATE: _____

JAN 16 1987

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

SUBJECT: Ministerial Correspondence from Mr. Chris Brown
Regarding the Environmentally Hypersensitive

BACKGROUND

- Mr. Chris Brown of the Advocacy Group for the Environmentally Sensitive (AGES) has written to you on a number of occasions concerning the difficulties of the environmentally hypersensitive and requesting your support for his cause.
- In his most recent letter, he included a letter sent to the Governor General in which he accused you of allowing religious prejudice to interfere with your judgment on a medical question involving Departmental policy. He cited your church affiliation as the reason for your 'intransigence', inability to understand environmental hypersensitivity, and lack of support for his cause.
- Most questions on support for the environmentally hypersensitive have to do with diagnosis, treatment and associated costs of illness. These areas are clearly under provincial jurisdiction. The Province of Ontario has begun to deal with the issue by appointing a committee to investigate and make recommendations. The Thomson Report has been released and a review of its recommendations by the Zimmerman Committee has been considered by the Province.
- Chemicals in the environment are often referred to as the cause of environmental illnesses, although the Thomson Report pointed out that there is little information on this question. The Department does have responsibilities in the area of control of chemicals in food, air and water. It also acts as health advisor on chemical contaminants to other departments and levels of government, as well as to the general public.

Release

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- Federal responsibilities also include health care for federal employees involving work-related chemical exposures, resulting illnesses and compensation payments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

2/1/1(a)

O/S Dr. Glynn

for Maureen Law